**Original Comp Examples**

**Topic**: Positive connections with older generations can enrich our lives.

**Example # 1**

The fabric of an old shirt against my palm felt as soft and wrinkly as my father’s face when he hit me. He looked at me, and I left. I walked across town, the soles of my feet bare and tough in the loose sand and warm cement.

I went to see a lady whose home was heavy with the powdery smell of old age and quite nights. I had hated this smell when my ratty prison of a high school sentenced all seniors to thirty hours of community service. Now it was my refuge.

She was standing on the back porch, numbly buttering the freshly laundered shirts of a husband who did not recognize her. Her hands were maps of veins and age sports; roads I have not yet travelled. Stories I have not yet heard. She stopped when she saw me, scalp tensing as she studied the cracks in my skin from the salt of my tears. We didn’t say much.

I helped her fold the laundry, and separate wooden clothespins from plastic ones. The air buzzed slightly with the slight scent of soapy anticipation and freshly mown grass. The blue basket contained light spring blankets, almost identical to the ones in which I had during childhood, enveloping myself in a cocoon of lavender scent.

We went inside the home for a drink. The lemonade was too sour, and the ice burned my lips. She looked at me from across the bale, with eyes like cloudy oysters with pears of wisdom. An old Johnny Cash song was playing, but I couldn’t tell where it was from.

“Four strong words that blow lonely, even seas that run high, all those things that don’t’ change, come what may…”

The music swirled like socks in a dryer. An engine started somewhere in the distance.

I could see myself in those eyes. My hands will someday become those hands. All the ecstasies and pains I have experienced will be etched in the lines of my face in the form of cryptic codes for teenagers to decipher. My palms were hot and I wanted to laugh or throw up.

“But the good times are all gone, and I’m bound for wrong on…”

We were just doing laundry, after all.

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| **Positives** | **Things to Improve** |
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**Example # 2**

Positive connections with older generations allows people to enrich their lives in ways nothing else can. Positive connections can allow people to avoid certain hardships as well as make better decisions. Elderly people can offer advice and insight that is more useful than that found anywhere else.

Firstly, talking to someone of an older generation will quickly reveal some excellent advice that can be very easily applied to your own life. Only a person who has experienced hardships first hand will be able to offer the kind of advice which may one day save you from bankruptcy or save you from making a terrible mistake which may cost you your life. A wise man once told me, “Don’t marry until you have enough money and a house to live in.” Those are words which rang true and may one day save me from a world of trouble. Only a person with experience can offer this kind of advice.

Secondly, listening to the stories of past accomplishments of elderly people can trigger you to strive to be the best you can be. My grandfather was an immigrant from Denmark. He moved to Canada in his early twenties and started a business. He soon got married and had a family and in my opinion had made it. I strive to one day accomplish such feats in my own life. Elderly generations can offer some of the greatest inspiration in our lives.

In conclusion, there is great wisdom behind that weathered and wrinkled face. It is just waiting to be tapped into and this can only be accomplished through positive connections. So make sure to speak with the older generations and let them offer you advice and stories of the past. It will better your life or maybe even one day save your life.

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| **Positives** | **Things to Improve** |
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